

58

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/690,112

Examiner

Patrick Hamo

Applicant(s)

BEZ ET AL.

Art Unit

3746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to January 23, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 8-10.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


ANTHONY D. STASHICK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 8-10 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The subject matter of the present invention differs from the teachings of the prior art in that the present invention comprises in combination with the other limitations of the first independent claim, a means for selectively connecting a first conduit communicating with the outlet side of the at least one first pump chamber or a second conduit communicating with the suction side of the at least one first pump chamber with the suction side of the at least one second pump chamber, the means comprising a three-way cock provided at an intersection of the first and second conduits and having a first position in which gas entering through the suction side of the at least one first pump chamber is pumped in the at least one first pump chamber and the at least one second pump chamber in parallel, and a second position in which gas entering through the suction side of the at least one first pump chamber is compressed in the at least one first pump chamber then flowing therefrom into the at least one second pump chamber, where it is further compressed. Furthermore, the subject matter of the present invention differs from the teachings of the prior art in that the present invention comprises in combination with the other limitations of the second independent claim, a method of operating a multi-stage reciprocating vacuum pump wherein a step of moving a selectively connecting means to a first position includes moving a cock to a first position thereof in which the second conduit is connected with the suction side of the at least

Art Unit: 3746

one second pump chamber and the first conduit is disconnected from the suction side of the at least one second pump chamber whereby gas entering through the suction side of the at least one first pump chamber is pumped in the at least one first pump chamber and the at least one second pump chamber in parallel, and a step of moving the cock to a second position in which the second conduit is disconnected from the suction side of the at least one second pump chamber and the first conduit is connected with the suction side of the at least one second pump chamber whereby gas entering through the suction side of the at least one first pump chamber is compressed in the at least one first pump chamber then flowing therefrom into the at least one second pump chamber, where it is further compressed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see pages 7-11, filed January 23, 2007, with respect to claims 8-10 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 8-10 has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick Hamo whose telephone number is 571-272-3492. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5.

Art Unit: 3746

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Stashick can be reached on 571-272-4561. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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